



**A NEW SPECIES OF *BULBOPHYLLUM* THOUARS SECTION
MICROMONANTHE (ORCHIDACEAE) FROM NORTH-
EASTERN QUEENSLAND**

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Summary

Bulbophyllum wolfei B. Gray & D. Jones, a new species of *Bulbophyllum* Thouars section *Micromonante* from north-eastern Queensland is described and illustrated.

Bulbophyllum wolfei B. Gray & D. Jones **sp. nov.** affinis *B. bowkettiae* Bailey sed rhizomatis angustioribus, pseudobulbis minoribus, foliis valde crassioribus, floribus minoribus et plus nutantibus, pedicellis tenuissimis, labello minore lobis lateralibus pauce productis. **Typus:** Queensland. COOK DISTRICT: State Forest Reserve 144, Parish of Spurgeon, Wren Logging Area, 16°11'S, 145°05'E, 940 m, 22 August 1984, *B. Gray* 3529 (holo: QRS; iso: BRI,NSW,MEL).

Plant epiphytic. Rhizomes creeping, much branched, spreading; c. 1.5 mm diameter, adhering closely to the substrate, when young covered by pale grey-brown scarious bracts, becoming naked and furrowed with age; roots wiry, c. 0.2 mm diameter, arising from rhizome nodes; pseudobulbs 10-60 mm apart, 4-9 mm × 3-5 mm, more or less ovoid, green, faintly sulcate, appressed to the rhizome. Leaf lamina 9-25 mm × 3-6 mm, linear-elliptic to linear-oblong, thick and fleshy, shallowly V-shaped in cross section, more or less sessile. Flowers 5-8 mm diameter, solitary at nodes on bracteate, strongly nodding pedicels c. 2 mm long, cream with prominent red to maroon longitudinal stripes; dorsal sepal c. 6.5 mm × 2 mm, linear-elliptic to linear-ovate, cucullate over column, apex cymbiform; lateral sepals c. 6.5 mm × 2.5 mm, triangular-lanceolate, asymmetric, widely divergent, apex cymbiform; petals c. 2 mm × 1.2 mm, asymmetrically ovate, whitish, apex truncate to retuse; labellum c. 4.8 mm × 2 mm, thick and fleshy, maroon, erect in proximal third then curved forwards, dorsal surface smooth, ventral surface verrucose to papillose, obscurely three-lobed, obtuse, apex obtuse; column c. 1.2 mm long; steldia c. 0.5 mm long, linear, slightly curved, subulate; column foot c. 1.2 mm, slightly curved forward; anther cap c. 1 mm × 0.8 mm, with a beak-like rostrum. Capsule not seen.

Additional specimen examined: Windsor Tableland, Feb 1990, *Jones 4353 & Clements* (CBG).

Distribution and habitat: At present this species is known only from the Mt Windsor Tableland where it grows on the upper branches of trees in highland rainforest above 900 m altitude.

Flowering period: Sporadically from April to September but flowering has occurred as early as January under glasshouse conditions.

Notes: *B. wolfei* is closely related to *B. bowkettiae*, but is readily distinguished by the much thicker leaves and the smaller, strongly nodding flowers. Plants form larger, sparser clumps than those in *B. bowkettiae*, have very slender rhizomes and smaller pseudobulbs relatively distinct on the rhizomes. *B. wolfei* is at present known from only a few plants but because of its superficial resemblance to *B. bowkettiae* it is probable that it has often been mistaken for that species, however, all specimens of *B. bowkettiae* examined appear to have been correctly identified. *B. bowkettiae* is a much more common species occurring from the McIllwraith Range south to the Tully River.

Conservation status: 2RC according to the criteria of Briggs and Leigh (1988).

Etymology: It gives us great pleasure to name this orchid in honour of Mr T.J. (Tom) Wolfe, of Atherton, Queensland. As well as being a great companion in the bush he has

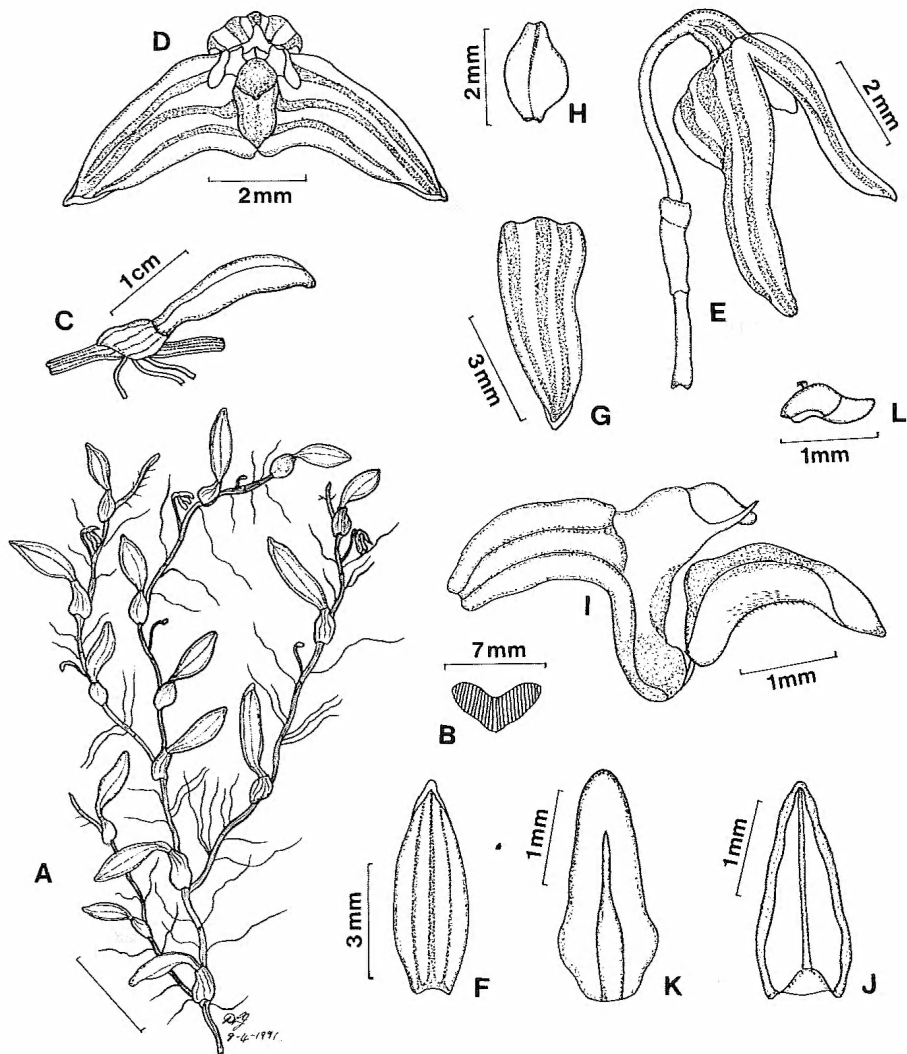


Fig. 1. *Bulbophyllum wolfei*: A. habit. B. section through leaf. C. section of rhizome, pseudobulb and leaf. D. flower from front. E. flower from side. F. dorsal sepal. G. lateral sepal. H. petal. I. column and labellum from side. J. labellum from below. K. labellum from above. L. anther from side. All from Jones 4353.

been of significant help in our orchid research.

Acknowledgements

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Reference

BRIGGS, J.D. & LEIGH, J.H. (1988). Rare or Threatened Australian Plants. 1988 Revised Edition. Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service Special Publication No. 14. Canberra: Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

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